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census corner

Atlases everywhere!

One of the more colourful outputs from the census is the suite of publications known as Social Atlases. The ABS has produced Atlases for all Australian capital cities since the 1991 Census and a number were produced even before then.

A Social Atlas contains maps illustrating a range of social, demographic and economic characteristics of the population, accompanied by a brief commentary which analyses these characteristics and highlights the main features of the individual map.

For some time now, producing the suite of Atlases has been the responsibility of staff in the ABS' Adelaide office with input from a wide range of other people throughout the organisation.

The 2001 Adelaide Social Atlas team consisted of Graham Duncan, Carla Bianco and Barry Haydon with Kate Hoffmann providing some valuable assistance at the closing stages. Given the nature of the work (it is somewhat different from many other ABS projects, being particularly challenging and self-contained) there was strong interest from staff who wanted to be involved.



Social Atlas team leader Barry Haydon at the launch of the Adelaide Social Atlas

Given the complexity of the overall project careful planning of the various tasks was necessary. In part this involved numerous interactions with the many stakeholders, and amongst other advantages this attention to detail led to all Atlases being released ahead of time and well within budget. In fact, the first Atlases to be released – on 28 October 2002 (those for Perth, Hobart and Sydney) were available just a few months from the first release of census data. The last to be released (Canberra, Darwin and Palmerston and Melbourne) were released just a few months later on 11 February 2003. Both of these sets of releases also involved major media events, in Perth and Melbourne respectively. For the record, releases of the Adelaide (1 November 2002) and Brisbane (6 December 2002) Atlases also involved local media events.

As well as determining the topics to be mapped (a significant task of consultation and consensus involving eight different ABS offices) the Social Atlas team had to quickly become familiar with the main geographic areas of all of the capital cities in Australia so that meaningful text could be prepared. Naturally, tapping into the expertise of the ABS' mapping unit and the knowledge of each regional office about their local situation was also important.

Barry Haydon, Director, Client Services (SA)

Australia in Profile



Australia in Profile — A Regional Analysis (cat.no. 2032.0) presents commentary and data from the 2001 Census on a number of key social indicators, with a focus on regional distribution and comparisons. This publication, to be released in December 2003, is a valuable resource for those involved in social policy, research, journalism, marketing and teaching, and anyone interested in the regional issues facing contemporary Australian society. Topics covered include:

- Population distribution and growth, which looks at growth and decline in different areas, and traces the movement of people between different parts of the country over the last five years.
- Cultural diversity, which looks at where the highest proportion of different groups of overseas-born live, and where people with different religions and ancestries are found.
- Education, which focuses on the regions of Australia with the highest and lowest levels of educational participation and attainment.
- Employment and unemployment, which examines regional well-being in terms of labour force participation, unemployment and working hours.
- Income and living standards, which reports not only on the regions of Australia with the highest and lowest incomes, but also on other indicators of living standards and disadvantage, such as use of information technology at home.
- Housing, in which regional variation is examined in terms of dwelling types, housing costs and overcrowding.



Australia in Profile reveals how key social indicators vary between regions.

Interesting facts:

Between 1996 and 2001, Gungahlin-Hall (SSD) in the Australian Capital Territory had the greatest population growth in Australia.

Around 20% of the population of Yorke and Lower North (SD) in South Australia were aged 65 years and over, compared with 13% of the population of Australia.

Sydney and Melbourne were the cities with the highest proportions of people born overseas.

The highest concentration of older lone person households (where the person was aged 65 years or over) was found in Redcliffe City (SSD) to the north of Brisbane.

Areas of Canberra and Brisbane had the highest proportions of people with a bachelor degree or above, while the Northern Beaches of Sydney had the highest proportion of people with an advanced diploma, a diploma or certificate.

Pilbara (SD) in Western Australia had one of the highest labour force participation rates in the country, and more than half of the families residing here were couple families with dependent children.

At almost 60% of all dwellings, the Far West (SD) region of New South Wales had the highest rate of outright home ownership in Australia.

Each chapter of *Australia in Profile — A Regional Analysis* is supported by a summary table which shows at a glance how key social indicators differ between regions across the country. A new feature of this edition is the inclusion of regional case studies, which draw together a wide range of data to paint a comprehensive picture of the social characteristics of particular areas.

The publication also includes ranked tables, maps, graphs and data from Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) 2001, and provides easy-to-read discussion for the general user of census data.

Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

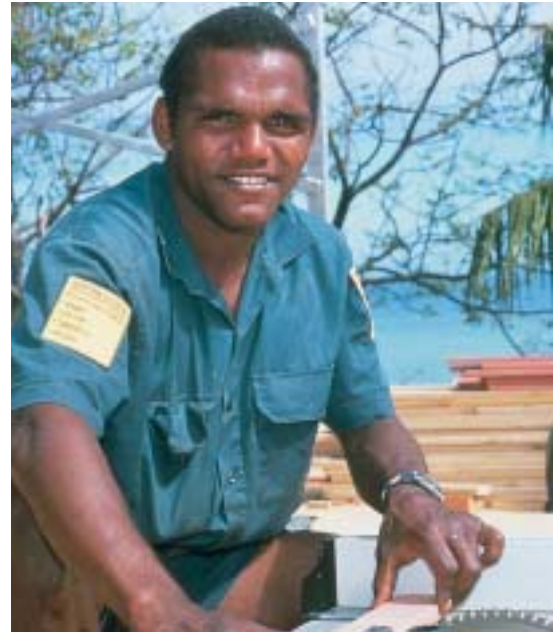
Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (cat. no. 4713.0) presents a range of demographic, economic and social statistics for the Indigenous population, based on data from the 2001 Census.

This publication includes information on the structure and distribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population; language, religious affiliation and ancestry; education and use of information technology; work; income; housing and transport; and household composition.

Selected data from previous censuses are included for comparison, along with data for States and Territories and Remoteness Areas.

This publication contains a range of data that makes it extremely useful for Indigenous organisations and communities, governments, and policy makers, as well as being of interest to the general public.

For more information on *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (cat. no. 4713.0), or to make a purchase, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or visit the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au/census.



Interesting Facts

At the 2001 Census:

Households with Indigenous person(s) tended to be larger than Other households (an average of 3.5 persons per household compared with 2.6).

Households with Indigenous person(s) were much more likely to be renting their home (63%) rather than purchasing (19%) or owning their home outright (13%).

Indigenous persons were half as likely as non-Indigenous persons to have completed Year 12.

20% of Indigenous persons in the labour force were unemployed compared with 7% of non-Indigenous persons

The mean equalised gross household income for Indigenous persons was \$364 per week, compared with \$585 for non-Indigenous persons.



Population Growth and Distribution

The Census of Population and Housing provides the basis on which estimated resident populations (ERPs) are derived. *Population Growth and Distribution* (cat. no. 2035.0) includes ERPs for all Statistical Local Areas as well as providing extensive information about the changes in population distribution and migration between 1996 and 2001.

Between 1996 and 2001, Australia's estimated resident population increased by over a million people, from 18.3 million to 19.4 million.

While Australians often see themselves as more at home in the bush, this publication shows that in 2001, 85% of the population lived within 50 kilometres of the coastline, and 87% of the population lived in urban areas with a population of 1,000 or more people.

Between 1996 and 2001, 6.8 million people, or 42% of the population, changed their address within Australia, with young adults, recent immigrants and Indigenous Australians being the most mobile groups. Queensland (92,900) had the largest net gain through interstate migration, while New South Wales had the largest net interstate migration loss (-66,500).

Further information is available in *Census of Population and Housing: Population Growth and Distribution, Australia* (cat. no. 2035.0). The publication is available for purchase on the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au.

The Australian centre of population in 2001 was east of the town of Ivanhoe in the Statistical Local Area of Central Darling in New South Wales. This was 6km north of the centre of population in 1996.



**Centre of population, Australia
– 30 June 2001**



Did you know?

Over 20% of people resident in Australia on Census night were born overseas.

SEIFA 2001 – a comprehensive profile of the Australian people

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) 2001 has now been released. This powerful analytical tool is available as a stand-alone software package, an Add-On Datapack for CDATA 2001, or as a consultancy service.

SEIFA 2001 enables you to investigate the socio-economic wellbeing of particular areas and identify areas of advantage and disadvantage. SEIFA 2001 is available for Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) areas as well as the Census geographic areas of Suburbs, Postal Areas and Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions. You can also create your own custom areas to meet your specifications.

Based on data from the 2001 Census, SEIFA 2001 takes information on issues such as income, education and occupation and summarises them into a series of indexes.

SEIFA 2001 consists of four indexes that each concentrate on a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions in an area. High values indicate areas of advantage, and low values correspond to areas of disadvantage.

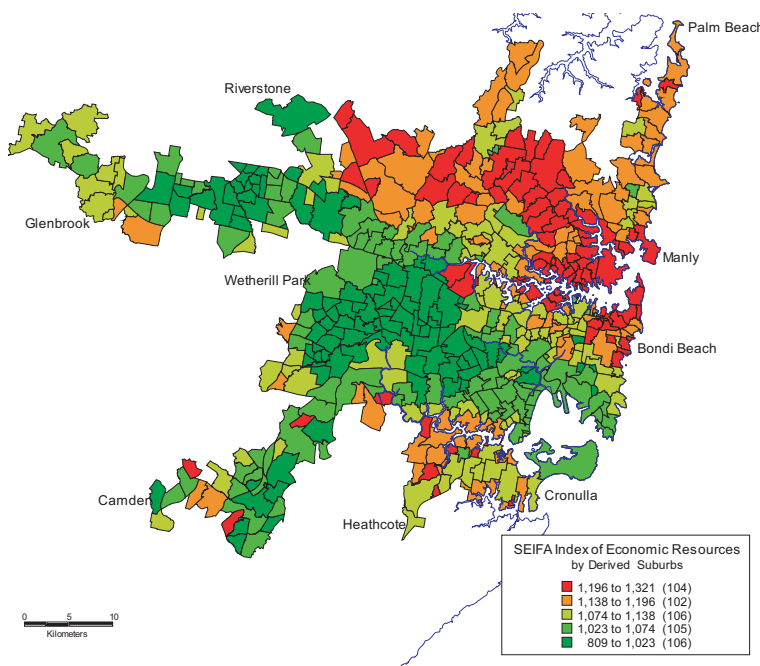


- **new** Index of Advantage/Disadvantage – A new index for SEIFA 2001, this index is a continuum of advantage to disadvantage. It takes into account variables such as the proportion of families with high incomes, people with a tertiary education, and people employed in a skilled occupation.
- Index of Disadvantage – Focuses on attributes such as low income, low educational attainment and high unemployment. This index is constructed using the same methodology as was used for the Index of Disadvantage in SEIFA 96.
- Index of Economic Resources – This index is derived from variables relating to the income, expenditure and assets of families, such as family income, rent paid, mortgage repayments, and dwelling size.
- Index of Education and Occupation – This index takes into account variables like the proportion of people with a higher qualification or employed in a skilled occupation.

The four indexes in SEIFA 2001 have a number of applications for Government, business and research use, including:

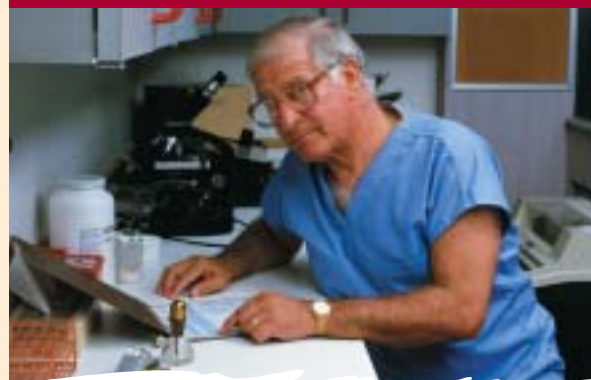
- assisting with funding allocation decisions
- market segmentation
- identifying a new business location
- constructing research models

For more information about SEIFA 2001, contact an ABS consultant on 1300 135 070 or visit the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au/census.



The SEIFA 2001 Add-On Datapack for CDATA 2001 allows you to map the socio-economic characteristics of Australian communities

SEIFA 2001 case studies



SEIFA 2001 is ideal for research into the link between health and socio-economic status

Economic Modelling

The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra is a leader in microsimulation modelling and microdata analysis. A focus of their work is building models of the social security, tax and health systems to examine the impact of social policies. In the last few years, NATSEM has been developing regional modelling techniques to allow for analysis of the spatial impacts of social and economic policies and developments. The regional focus to their work has led them to use SEIFA indexes for a number of projects.

Three SEIFA indexes were used on a recent project for a government department assessing the socio-economic attractiveness of various regions around Australia to particular demographic profiles of interest.

NATSEM has also undertaken a number of regional analyses for Centrelink, using sources of socio-economic data such as the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage to provide context about the population characteristics of areas.

In a project examining the characteristics of hospital users in NSW, the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage was used to add socio-economic status to hospital patients based on the Collection District in which they lived. The SEIFA Index was found to be beneficial in the analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of hospital users.

Social Research

SEIFA provides a measure of socio-economic disadvantage that is extremely useful in social research.

Dr James Doughney of the Work and Economic Policy Research Unit at Victoria University has used SEIFA in his research into the economic and social impact of poker machines on Victorian communities.

Combining research showing the average poker machine losses per adult in Victorian Local Government Areas with the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage, Dr Doughney found a significant relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and poker machine losses.

According to this research, the most disadvantaged Local Government Areas (LGAs) also had the highest poker machine losses and poker machine venues were located in Census Collection Districts with lower average SEIFA rankings than LGAs overall.

Reasoning that the more disadvantaged communities are those that can least afford these losses, Dr Doughney has developed a "Pokie Loss Severity Index", which divides poker machine losses per head by the Index of Disadvantage.

Dr Doughney hopes that the Victorian Government will take something akin to this approximate indicator of community impact into account when determining regional caps on the number of poker machines.

"The government needs to do more than merely spread the number of machines equally across municipalities if it truly wants to even out the severity of poker machine impacts," Dr Doughney claims.

"To be fair, regional caps must reduce losses so as to equalise the severity index and minimise the pokie burden on communities that can least afford it."

Research such as this demonstrates the ability of SEIFA to be used in the investigation of contemporary social issues.

Health Research

The health field is one of the most useful areas for the application of SEIFA. Many causes of illness and death are strongly related to socio-economic status, and SEIFA provides a mechanism for analysing these relationships. Health interventions can then be targeted to particular population groups.

One useful summary measure of population health is life expectancy. Using ABS mortality statistics, researchers from the Victorian Burden of Disease Study in the Health Surveillance and Evaluation Section of the Victorian Department of Human Services were able to create estimates of life expectancy for males and females in Victoria by Local Government Area (LGA).

Using the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage, the researchers examined the correlation between the socio-economic conditions in Victorian Local Government Areas and the average life expectancy in those areas. They found that low socio-economic status was a relatively strong predictor of early mortality.

The Victorian Burden of Disease Study also used the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage to examine the relationship between socio-economic status and years of life lost due to specific causes.

The study found that years of life lost to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, road traffic accidents and lung cancer were all significantly higher in the more disadvantaged areas.

More information on the use of SEIFA and the distribution of morbidity across Victoria is available at a searchable on-line database of LGA burden of disease estimates, www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/bod.

Testing the census



Renee Brown and Henry Zuk during the August test

As part of the ongoing seven-year census planning cycle, a test of approximately 6,000 households was conducted in Brisbane in August.

To ensure that each census runs smoothly, the ABS conducts a number of tests during the period between censuses. Next year there will be a test involving around 10,000 households, followed by a dress rehearsal involving some 40,000 households a year out from the 2006 Census.

A range of issues were evaluated in the August test, including the testing of possible questions on disability and unpaid work, procedures for conducting the census in difficult collection areas such as secure apartment buildings, and evaluating the number of people that preferred to complete the census form on the Internet.

The Census eForm was also tested for useability, accessibility and security issues. The 2006 Census will offer the opportunity to complete the census questionnaire on-line and extensive testing is required for the ABS to perfect the forms and procedures in time for the next census.

The test was conducted in selected parts of the suburbs of Kangaroo Point, New Farm, St Lucia, Taringa, Slacks Creek and Woodridge.

This test will help the ABS develop better form design, collection procedures and methods for communication with field staff for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The information gathered in this test remains strictly confidential and is for evaluation only.

Correction of prison data for Qld

While the vast majority of data for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing comes from people filling in household forms, in some cases, such as for remote Indigenous communities and the homeless, special enumeration strategies are used. Given the problems associated with having prisoners complete forms themselves, most data for people resident in prisons and detention centres was received for processing in electronic data files.

During internal evaluation following the census, ABS staff discovered that the codes for males and females for Queensland prisons had been transposed in the electronic data file. All other States were correct.

While the total counts were unaffected, this resulted in incorrect sex counts for various geographic areas within Queensland, and as a result, incorrect sex counts for Queensland and Australia. While the difference is

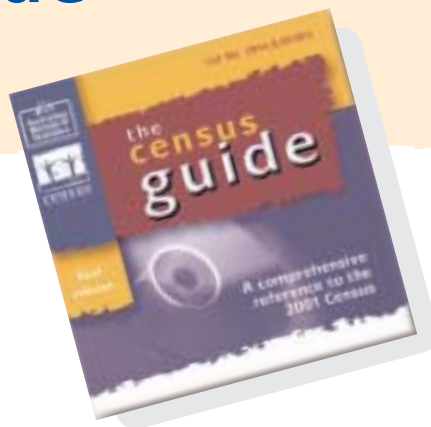
relatively small at the Queensland or Australia level, the smaller geographic areas that house prisons may be affected significantly.

This error has now been corrected, with the following actions undertaken to address it:

- corrigenda for the census hard copy publications have been issued
- the effects on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) have been evaluated
- Census Basics clients have been contacted
- Community Profiles and Snapshots on the ABS web site have been corrected
- CDATA 2001 clients have been contacted and a patch issued

For more information, contact Philip Mitchell, Assistant Director, Census Products and Services: (02) 6252 5934

The Census Guide



The final release of The Census Guide is now available. The Census Guide is your essential source of Census information, with a comprehensive range of reference material, product information and free data easily accessible on CD-ROM.

This is the third and final release of the Census Guide, and builds upon the material included in the first two editions.

The Census Guide Final Release includes the following publications:

2001 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0)

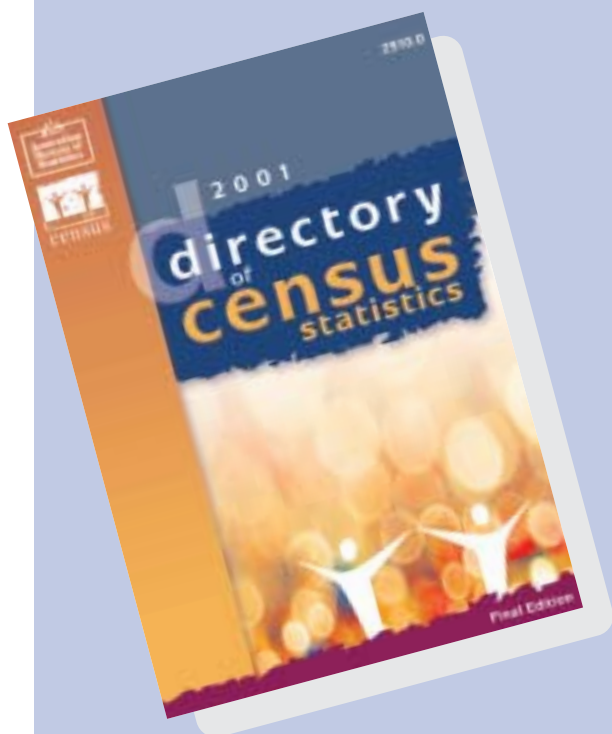
How Australia Takes a Census (cat. no. 2903.0)

Directory of Census Statistics (cat. no. 2910.0)

The Census Guide Final Release also contains updated snapshots, product demonstrations, free Community Profile data at the Australia level and the latest Census fact sheets.

For a free copy of The Census Guide call:
1800 813 939

Directory of Census Statistics



The Directory of Census Statistics is available from: www.abs.gov.au/census

A new and revised edition of the *Directory of Census Statistics* (cat. no. 2910.0) is included in The Census Guide Final Release and is also available on-line. The Directory of Census Statistics is a reference to the range of products and services developed from the 2001 Census.

The Directory includes detailed product descriptions, release dates and prices. It also includes information on census data items and geographic structure and a glossary of common census terms.

The Australian Census Analytic Program (ACAP)

The Australian Census Analytic Program (ACAP) is a collaborative venture between the ABS and several of Australia's leading academics and social science researchers.

The program was designed to demonstrate the power of census data, whether used in isolation or when combined with other sources. Each research project conducted under ACAP involves detailed analysis of data from the 2001 Census, and significantly advances our understanding of Australia's social, cultural and economic environment.

This unprecedented level of collaboration between the ABS and the research community has led to the publication of important but previously unrevealed information about Australian society. Findings are geared towards practical policy development.

There were eight research projects conducted under the Australian Census Analytic Program, with findings being progressively released as they become available. The first four to be published are:

- Counting the Homeless 2001
- Indigenous Australians in the Contemporary Labour Market
- Australia Online: How Australians are Using Computers and the Internet
- Understanding the Changing Structure of Rural Communities



Counting the Homeless 2001

The purpose of this research was to establish the extent of homelessness in Australia at the time of the 2001 Census, using census data complemented by survey and administrative data. It draws on earlier research using 1996 Census data which was published in *Counting the Homeless: Implications for Policy Development* (cat. no. 2041.0).

The report examines the different definitions of homelessness: Primary homelessness (people without conventional accommodation); Secondary homelessness (people who frequently move from one form of hostel or refuge to another); and Tertiary homelessness (people who live in boarding houses on a medium to long term basis).

Altogether, the report found that on Census night August 7 2001, there were 100,000 homeless people in Australia.

According to authors Dr Chris Chamberlain of RMIT and Mr David MacKenzie of Swinburne University, "This research project was supported by Federal and State governments as well as the Salvation Army [and] will have direct implications for the policy developers at a national and state level."

Did you know?

In 2001, over 850 people were employed at the Census Data Processing Centre to process the 136 shipping containers of Census forms that were returned to the ABS.



Indigenous Australians in the Contemporary Labour Market

Published as part of the Australian Census Analytic Program (ACAP), *Indigenous Australians in the Contemporary Labour Market* (cat.no. 2052.0) provides, for the first time, a comprehensive appraisal of Indigenous labour force status.

The publication, by Dr Boyd Hunter of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic and Policy Research at the Australian National University, shows that Indigenous people continue to be less educated, less likely to be participating in the labour force, and more likely to be unemployed. It also examines the factors underlying the differences in labour force outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



Australia Online: How Australians are Using Computers and the Internet

Questions about computer and Internet use were included in the census for the first time in 2001. This has provided the first real opportunity to examine the social, economic and regional factors that influence computer and Internet use. *Australia Online: How Australians are Using Computers and the Internet* (cat. no.

2056.0) reports that home computer and Internet use increases significantly with income and educational qualification. Indigenous people, people who lack fluency in English, and older women all have very low rates of use, while remote areas had lower rates of use than metropolitan areas.

These findings are valuable in targeting customers and service delivery, and in the formulation of policies to address this "digital divide".



Understanding the Changing Structure of Rural Communities

Trends in rural communities are well documented in other countries, but this is not the case in Australia. *Understanding the Changing Structure of Rural Communities* (cat. no. 2055.0), by Dr Neil Barr of the Centre for Land Protection Research at the Victorian Department of Primary Industries helps provide us with a better understanding of the changes in rural Australia. The publication explores methods of combining data about rural communities from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing with agricultural activity data collected in the 2001 Agricultural Census in order to look at farming communities in their fullest context. This research significantly contributes to the policy debate in rural and regional Australia by examining the social aspects of natural resource management.

Did you know?

In the 2001 Census, the most common occupation was Sales Assistants, with 471,226 people employed in this job.

CLIB - The census @ your library

The full range of Community Profiles from the 2001 Census will soon be available free of charge in your local library with the release of CLIB 2001 Release 3. The final release of CLIB 2001 contains all content from Releases 1 and 2, as well as the Usual Residents Profile, Expanded Community Profile and Working Population Profile.



Usual Residents Profile

The Usual Residents Profile (URP) contains 28 tables, mainly drawn from the Basic Community Profile and Expanded Community Profile. However, data in the URP is based on where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.



Expanded Community Profile

The Expanded Community Profile (XCP) contains 49 tables that provide much more detailed information about an area's characteristics. Building on data in the Basic Community Profile, the Expanded Community Profile offers information that is cross-classified with more variables and contains more categories within classifications.



Working Population Profile

The Working Population Profile (WPP) contains 19 tables detailing the labour force and employment characteristics of the people that work in a particular area. The WPP includes a range of information relating to people's work, including industry

of employment, income, hours worked, and method of travel to work.

As well as this additional data, CLIB 2001 Release 3 adds new geographies - including Postal Areas and Journey to Work Study Areas.

CLIB 2001 has an intuitive interface that allows you to easily find and select the data you want. Area selections are made easy with a simple drill-down map interface,

Information for Libraries

CLIB 2001 is available free of charge to eligible libraries through the Library Extension Program (LEP). Eligible libraries include public libraries, university libraries, Parliamentary libraries and the National and State libraries.

All LEP member libraries and those libraries who received Release 1 and 2 will automatically be sent a copy of CLIB 2001 Release 3. Other libraries may request a copy by emailing library@abs.gov.au or calling 02 6252 6364.

allowing you to make your selection from an area as large as Australia to as small as a Collection District. Once an area is selected, you can conveniently browse the available data by topic or profile. CLIB 2001 also contains the complete range of Classification Counts from the 2001 Census, which contain detailed data for each variable for Capital Cities and States and Territories.

A range of census reference material is included with CLIB 2001, such as the 2001 Census Dictionary, the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), and a replica of the household census form.



CLIB 2001 allows free and easy access to 2001 Census data from your local library

Undercount explained

With some controversy surrounding undercount recently, it is a good time to explain the issues surrounding underenumeration or undercount from the 2001 Census.

While the census makes every effort to count each person once, some people are missed and some are counted multiple times. Generally more people are missed than are counted more than once, and this leads to a net undercount.

People may have not been counted because the dwelling they were in on Census night was missed because it was difficult to find. Others may have been missed, even though the dwelling they were in was counted, due to insufficient space on the household form or privacy concerns.

People may have been counted more than once due to being included on the census form at the dwelling where they usually lived even though there were also counted elsewhere on Census night.

A measure of the extent of net undercount is obtained from the Post Enumeration Survey (PES), conducted soon after the census. The PES revealed that the 2001 Census missed 1.8% of people in Australia on Census night. However, rates of undercount are not uniform and can vary significantly according to age, sex, ethnicity and geographic area.

An allowance for net undercount based on the results of the PES is added to the census count when calculating the Estimated Resident Population (ERP), which is used for allocating seats in parliament and distributing billions in Government funding. However, the census counts themselves are not adjusted.

The results of the PES also provide an assessment of census procedures and allow improvements to be made for the next census.

More information about undercount in the 2001 Census can be found in the *Information Paper: Data Quality - Undercount* (cat. no. 2940.0), available free of charge on the Census webpages

www.abs.gov.au/census.

Further information about undercount can also be found in:

- *Demography Working Paper 2003/2 - 2001 Net Undercount*
- *Demography Working Paper 2002/2 - Estimated Resident Population and Effects of Census Systems Created Records*
- *Fact Sheet: Effects of Census Processes on Non-response Rates and Person Counts*

Did you know?

On Census night, August 7 2001, there were 18,972,350 people counted in Australia, with 94.5% counted at home.

Did you know?

According to the 2001 Census, there were 2,503 people aged 100 years or over.

Census Update delivered to your desktop

If you would like the convenience of receiving *Census Update* to your desktop simply register your details via the census.users alert system. By sending an email to census.users@abs.gov.au and typing "add to census email" in the subject header you will have *Census Update* delivered directly to you as soon as it is released.

census.users@abs.gov.au

Do YOU need to be informed of upcoming events and releases?

If your answer is YES, then what better way than to receive an EMAIL from the ABS to your desktop.

Emails will link you to relevant parts of the ABS web site for information on current issues and census data.

How can you join?

Simply send an email to census.users@abs.gov.au from the email address you would like the information sent to, and type "add to census email" in the subject field. Your details will automatically be loaded to the alert system.

If at any time you wish to stop receiving these information updates, send an email to the above address and type "remove from census email" in the subject field.

This is a **free service**, so why not take advantage and get the latest census news direct to your desktop.

For all ABS inquiries, call National Information Service: 1300 135 070

Helpful email addresses:

client.services@abs.gov.au – email us with your statistical requirements.
subscription@abs.gov.au – email delivery of publications.
census.users@abs.gov.au – to receive census information

Where to find the ABS in your State/Territory

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Sydney NSW 1041

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Perth WA 6001

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Darwin NT 0801

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Melbourne VIC 3001

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